



Goats!

First Presbyterian Church in Waukon, Iowa, made the purchase of two goats its October outreach project. Wait...goats? What's that about? Here's their story, first the logistics from Pastor Grant VanderVelde, then the story of the goats

Each month we do a special offering that goes to any number of recipients designated by Session. Local non-profits receive a majority of the monthly offerings, but we also do at least one offering each year for something from the Presbyterian Giving Catalog. It's a fun way to participate in global stewardship and mission. One year we funded a sand dam to provide water and jerry cans to carry and store it. Another year we purchased a beehive. These also provide some good teachable moments about the challenges that people who live in non-first-world countries face every day. Oftentimes I can find educational videos to show in worship before the call for the offering, which I think motivate people to give.

Less than a year in, Hari Pariyar's new goat operation is proving fruitful. One female has had three kids, an excellent start for his enterprise.

Opportunities like this are rare for the residents of Katunje Village in Nepal, where Pariyar lives. Nepal is one of the world's poorest countries, and Katunje is one of its poorest regions, wracked with unemployment and low economic opportunity.

When a powerful earthquake struck Nepal in April 2015, conditions became even worse for residents of Katunje. In a place where shelter was already scarce, the earthquake destroyed 90 percent of houses in the municipality. Twenty-seven lives were lost in the area. Residents struggled with day-to-day living and trauma from the disaster, on top of their already desperate economic circumstances.

In 2018, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance partnered with Together for Nepal to form the Katunje Post-Disaster Recovery Nepal Project (KPRN) to help the people of the region cope with the earthquake's aftermath by offering skills and opportunities that would help make them more resilient for the future.

In one KPRN program, 280 female goats were distributed to locals like Pariyar to help provide a new source of income and livelihood families could depend on. Goats were chosen because they are relatively inexpensive to raise, very productive for their size and are highly adaptable, especially in mountainous areas. Goats enhance food security by providing milk, cheese, butter, and yogurt. These valuable foods offer nutrition to those who need it most.

Editor's note: First Presbyterian set a goal of \$175 to purchase two goats. And how did they do? They raised enough to buy eight goats!! What a witness, First Pres. Thank you